

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. In response to the Office Action mailed May 20, 2005, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 23. Claims 1-23 are pending.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding objections and rejections.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Lau for the courtesies extended during the interview with Applicants' representative on August 17, 2005. During the interview, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0169558 to Smith et al. (hereinafter Smith) and claims 1, 21, and 23 were discussed. Agreement was reached to amend these claims as included herewith to overcome Smith.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On pages 2-5, the Action rejects claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

(A) For at least the following reasons, Smith does not anticipate amended claim 1.

Amended claim 1 recites "A method for end-to-end environmental data acquisition and delivery comprising the steps of: a) acquiring a first set of environmental subsurface data in a first location via direct reading sensors, wherein said environmental subsurface comprises an area beneath at least one of a surface of earth, and/or a surface of a body of water, and wherein said direct reading sensors are placed in said environmental subsurface and said direct reading sensors are in direct contact with at least one of soil, water, and/or vapor; b) geo-referencing said data; c) transmitting said data to a data analysis application server; d) analyzing said data to obtain information about said data; and e) using said information to select a next location."

Smith does not teach or suggest “wherein said direct reading sensors are placed in said environmental subsurface and said direct reading sensors are in direct contact with at least one of soil, water, and/or vapor,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-20, which depend from claim 1, are also in condition for allowance because of their dependence on an allowable claim.

(B) For at least the following reasons, Smith does not anticipate amended claim 21.

Amended claim 21 recites: “A method for end-to-end environmental data acquisition and delivery comprising the steps of: a) acquiring environmental subsurface data at a location via direct reading sensors, wherein said environmental subsurface comprises an area beneath at least one of a surface of earth, and/or a surface of a body of water; b) geo-referencing said data in at least three dimensions, wherein said geo-referencing comprises associating said environmental subsurface data with said location; and c) transmitting said data to a data analysis application server adapted to analyze said data to obtain information about said data.”

Smith does not teach or suggest “geo-referencing said data in at least three dimensions,” as recited in amended claim 21.

Accordingly, amended claim 21 is in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim 22, which depends from claim 21, is also in condition for allowance because of its dependence on an allowable claim.

(C) For at least the following reasons, Smith does not anticipate amended claim 23.

Claim 23 recites: "A method for environmental subsurface data acquisition and analysis comprising: receiving environmental subsurface data acquired at a location via direct reading sensors, wherein said environmental subsurface comprises an area beneath at least one of a surface of earth, and/or a surface of a body of water, and wherein said direct reading sensors are placed in said environmental subsurface and said direct reading sensors are in direct contact with at least one of soil, water, and/or vapor; receiving said location; georeferencing said data by said location in at least three dimensions; and analyzing said data to obtain information."

Smith does not teach or suggest "wherein said direct reading sensors are placed in said environmental subsurface and said direct reading sensors are in direct contact with at least one of soil, water, and/or vapor," as well as "georeferencing said data in at least three dimensions," as recited in amended claim 23.

Accordingly, amended claim 23 is in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Therefore, claims 1-23 are in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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